

To: Gartner, Lois[Gartner.Lois@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; Fitz-James, Schatzi[Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov]
From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 9:10:49 PM
Subject: Fw: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

All-please see our proposed responses to these questions (#2 and 3) and how the other questions are being handled. *Please have Jim review.* I just sent the CNN questions over to OSWER for Mathy to look at, so I will stay here until I hear back from Nancy on those and on the field investigation questions we sent up to OSWER earlier. Terry Jeng answered #3 and Richard Jeng weighed in on #5 but ultimately Brian Schleiger proposed an answer so we don't need to worry about that one.

Do you think these two need to go up to Mathy?

Thanks!

1)--had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

Sent to Region 8

2)--how many mines are currently on the National Priorities List? Can we get a list of those or is there a way to search on the Superfund website?

There are currently 133 mining and mineral processing sites on the NPL. This site information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/aml/aml/site/npl.htm>.

3) is there a gauge of how often resistance to a Superfund designation by local officials has prevented a site's listing?

It has been EPA's policy since 1996 to determine the position of states and tribes on sites that EPA is considering for listing. Although EPA considers participation from communities, stakeholders and local governments an essential component of the site investigation and remediation process, NPL listing decisions must be made by EPA to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. EPA endeavors, through meetings with local officials, public availability sessions, dialog and collaboration, to make all interested parties understand the importance of listing as the first step toward investigation and cleanup of a release.

4)was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?

Sent to Region 8

5a) it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. 5b) Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?

Sent to OEM-Brian with OGC weighing in

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:17 PM
To: EOC Technical Specialist
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne; Stalcup, Dana
Subject: Re: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Thanks! I will send those on to the region.

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G. on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:14 PM
To: EOC Public Information
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne; Stalcup, Dana
Subject: Re: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Hello,

We believe questions #1 and 4 would be best answered by Region 8, as well as the first part of #5. OSRTI will work on #2, 3 and 5b.

Thanks

Melissa

From: Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:30 PM
To: EOC Technical Specialist

Subject: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Hi,

These are a subset of questions from Associated Press re: Superfund and the spill. Thanks!

- 1) --had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?
- 2) --how many mines are currently on the National Priorities List? Can we get a list of those or is there a way to search on the Superfund website?
- 3) --is there a gauge of how often resistance to a Superfund designation by local officials has prevented a site's listing?
- 4) --was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?
- 5) --it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?